

History of
Children's Mental Health Week

Started in Missouri



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1988 – Missouri received the Federal Child and Adolescent Service System Project (CASSP) Grant Award in October of 1988. *1

1990 – Child and Adolescent Service System Project (CASSP) Coalition of Families and Professionals in the Greater Metro Kansas City area decided that they needed to do something to educate people about the fact that although children with Mental Health issues looked healthy on the outside they were hurting on the inside. So this Coalition (including Keys for Networking and the CASSP parent effort in MO) got the Mayors of Kansas City, MO (Mayor Cleaver) and Kansas City, Kansas to sign proclamations declaring a certain week in May as **“Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week”**. This event took place in Kansas City, MO. The next year it went statewide in both States. *2

1991 – May 17, 1991 – Declaration of **Children’s Mental Health and Behavior Disorder Week**. . General agreement that the State Parent Advisory Panel (SPAP) would support such a week. but it was the Panel’s feeling that support should come through the school systems. If the P.L. 99-142(*3). Board will support such a proclamation then the SPAP will also. *3

1991 – Summer/Fall CASSP Kansas City Area Coalition. The Coalition sponsored by Kansas Keys for Networking and the Missouri CASSP Project planning toward a jointly sponsored Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Disorder Awareness Week to be held during the first week of May, 1992. This will be a statewide event in both Kansas and Missouri and will not be limited to the Kansas City area. Local Community Mental Health Centers, Schools, not-for-profit and private agencies, advocacy groups and businesses will be asked to plan activities during this week which will assist in providing information and education about these disorders and in reducing the stigma attached to them. *4

1991- Children's Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Awareness Week Vision: A growing number of children are recognized as having emotional, behavioral and mental disorders. At the same time members of the community lack information and understanding of these disorders. The purpose of this week is to disseminate information to the community about the needs of these children and their families. *4

On November 26, 1991 - The CASSP Statewide Parent Advisory Panel decided not to have a poster contest this year because of the time elements and the lack of manpower on the committee to do a poster. The Kansas City Committee decided to ask Virginia's Parent's and Children Coping Together to use their poster. We will be developing information packets to send out regarding the week. *5

1992 – First Stateside “Children’s Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week” Poster with Theme “Healthy On The Outside Hurting On The Inside” Poster reference to contact Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS) or Kansas Keys for Networking. This year the first Missouri Governor Proclamation declaring the first full week of May (May 3-9, 1992) as “Children's Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week” signed by Governor John Ashcroft. *6

1994 – The first year that the Family Organization Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network took Posters. Information Packets and Green Ribbons to the National Federation Of Families Children's Mental Health Conference to share with other States where they could put their State's information on the poster. Later the poster and information became available electronically. *7

1995 – The name "Children's Emotional and Behavioral Awareness Week" was changed to **"Children's Mental Health Week"**. The posters then read co-founders Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network and Missouri Department of Mental Health Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. *2, 6

1996 – First year that Children's Mental Health Week was celebrated nationwide May 5-11, 1996. *8

1998 & 1999 – Children's Mental Health Week in the Congressional Record signed by Missouri Senator John Ashcroft. *6

2000-2005 – Posters with Themes were distributed statewide along with information packets by Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network, Department of Mental Health, Community Mental Health Centers and NAMI. *6

2006-2010 – Missouri Families 4 Families and Families 4 Families SW Region continued observing Children's Mental Health Week with a theme and Statewide Award Ceremony. In 2006 the Award Ceremony was held in Monett and the followingt years in Jefferson City. *8

2010-2013 - Missouri Families 4 Families designed a poster with the Theme for Children's Mental Health Week. The Posters along with information were disseminated statewide with support from the Department of Mental Health and NAMI MO. *9

**MO Governor's Proclamations
declaring the first full week of May as
"Children's Mental Health Week"**

1992 -Signed by Governor John Aschoft

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
Signed by Governor Mel Carnahan

2001, 2002, 2003
Signed by Governor Bob Holden

2009, 2010 ,2012
Signed by Governor Jay Nixon

**Mayor's Proclamations of
"Children's Mental Health Week"**

2009 First year of Mayor's Proclamation
2010- 2012 the number of Mayor's Proclamations has
increased each year

Children's Mental Health Week Award Ceremony

1996-2005 Missouri Statewide Advisory Network held the
Children's Mental Health Week Award Ceremony. For the first few
years the event was held at the Capitol or the Governor's Mansion.

2006-Present MO Families 4 Families and Families 4 Families SW
Region have continued the Annual Award Ceremony

Children's Mental Health Week Themes

- 1992 Healthy On The Outside Hurting On The Inside
- 1993 It Takes A Community To Raise A Child
- 1994 A Right To Belong

- 1995 We Do Fit In
- 1996 One Youth At A Time
- 1997 Putting Our Voices Together For Children

- 1998 Communities Need All Our Children
"Give Them A Chance"
- 1999 In A Child's Life Everyone Is Accountable
- 2000 Remember Us In The New Millennium

- 2001 We're All In This Together
- 2002 Show Me Our System Of Care
- 2003 In A System Of Care Dream It Do It

- 2004 Our Child And Family Driven System Of Care
- 2005 In A System Of Care Nothing About Us Without Us
- 2006 Our Kids, Our Lives, Our Future. Creating Hope

- 2007 United Families Have The Power And Hope
- 2008 Joining Hands For Unity
- 2009 Stars Of Hope On The Horizon

- 2010 Where We Have Been Where Are We Going
- 2011 Looking To the Past To Create A Better Future
- 2012 Building With The End In Mind

- 2013 Show Me Children Mental Health Matters

References

- *1 Parent and Professionals Together Newsletter January 1989
- *2 Phone and in person interviews and emails (2010) with
Robyn Boustead, former MO Director of the
Child and Adolescent service System Project (CASSP)
Barbara Huff, former Director of Kansas Keys for Networking
and
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Jenny Wiley, former assistant Director of the
Child and Adolescent Service System (CASSP)
Donna Dittrich, former member of Parent Support and
Advocacy Panel and Former Director of
Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network
Marge Parrish, former member of Parent Support and
Advocacy Panel and NAMI
- *3 May 17, 991 Minutes of CASSP Parent Support and Advocacy
Panel
(P.L.94-142) Education for All Handicapped Children Act.
which required that children between age 3 and 21 with
serious emotional disturbances be provided a free and
appropriate education and the mental health services that
are needed to promote learning
- *4 Parents and Professionals Partners For Change
CASSP Summer/Fall 1991
- *5 November 26, 1991 CASSP
Statewide Parent Advisory Panel Minutes
- *6 Posters and Proclamations
- *7 Minutes of CASSP
Statewide Parent Advisory Panel
- *8 Letter on Department of Mental Health Letterhead dated
April 8, 1996 signed by Roy C. Wilson M.D.
- *9 Missouri Families 4 Families Records



1992

First Statewide

"Children's Emotional and
Behavioral Awareness Week"

Poster with Theme